



## **Program of Support for the Establishment of an Afghan Parliament**

Sector:	Democracy and Governance
SO3	Rehabilitate Afghanistan as a Nation State
Program Name:	Support to the Afghan Parliament
Implementer:	State University of New York
Duration:	Oct. 2004-Sept 2007

The overall objective of this program is the establishment and development of a new parliament that is able to operate as a strong, independent and effective body capable of discharging its legislative, representative and oversight functions.

The Afghanistan Parliamentary Support Program is being implemented as a design-and-implement activity. The Program will be launched with a comprehensive assessment of the political, legal and administrative environment for establishing a new National Assembly. The results of this study will inform the nature of the program as implemented, and will identify required interventions, key institutional actors, and estimated levels of effort required for the desired impact. Technical assistance will be targeted to assist key Afghan interlocutors, including: the government's parliamentary exploratory committee, the National Assembly administrative secretariat, parliamentarians, and the broader legislative community.

USAID/DG is implementing this activity in close collaboration with UNDP and the French Embassy under the overall coordination of the UNDP's SEAL project (Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature). Between now and the opening of parliament, France is the lead nation and will conduct the bulk of new staff and administration training. USAID will take over as lead nation once parliament is elected and seated and the bulk of USAID assistance will be for the new elected members and ongoing professionalization of the parliamentary staff.

Key results of the Afghanistan Parliamentary Support Program will include:

- The establishment of a parliamentary exploratory committee that is capable of planning the structure and opening of the National Assembly in a timely fashion that allows for an orderly convening of Parliament;
- National Assembly secretariat staff are trained in the execution of daily support operations of the new parliament;



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- Strengthened ability of the Parliament to exercise its oversight, representation and legislative functions;
- Creation of opportunities for citizens, other Afghan government institutions (such as the Ministry of Justice), and civil society to interact with Parliament to create a broader legislative community.